

**CONFIDENTIAL.]**

[No. 35 of 1897.]

# REPORT

ON

# NATIVE PAPERS

**FOR THE**

Week ending the 28th August 1897.

## CONTENTS:

	Page.		Page.
<b>I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.</b>		<b>(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—</b>	
The frontier risings ... ..	763	Municipal assessment of residential houses in Calcutta ... ..	772
The frontier trouble .. ..	ib.	<b>(f)—Questions affecting the land—</b>	
The Amir and the frontier risings ... ..	ib.	The proposed re-settlement of the revenue of certain estates in the Tippera district ... ..	ib.
England in the Græco-Turkish question ... ..	764	<b>(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—</b>	
The Amir's fidelity to the British Government ... ..	765	The Canal cess in the Howrah district ... ..	773
Afghanistan should be annexed ... ..	ib.	Bad condition of roads in the Bankura district ... ..	ib.
The <i>Englishman</i> on the Amir ... ..	765	<b>(h)—General—</b>	
Proscribing of Turkish papers by the Government of India ... ..	ib.	Lord Sandhurst in the Poona affair ... ..	ib.
The Amir and the frontier risings ... ..	ib.	The Government in the Tilak case ... ..	774
The Amir in the frontier risings ... ..	ib.	The policy of gagging the native press ... ..	ib.
		Sale of liquor by Government ... ..	776
		Lord Sandhurst's denial of plague oppression ... ..	ib.
		The Government of Bombay's treatment of the Fergusson College ... ..	ib.
		The Bombay Government and Pandita Ramabai ... ..	ib.
		The Maharaja of Cooch Behar in the frontier expedition ... ..	ib.
		The Khana case ... ..	776
<b>II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.</b>		<b>III.—LEGISLATIVE.</b>	
<b>(a)—Police—</b>		The <i>Englishman</i> on the right of making criminal appeals ... ..	
The Viceroy on the action of the police in the Calcutta riots ... ..	766	A suggestion in connection with the Land Registration Act ... ..	
The Government of India on the Tala riot ... ..	ib.	<b>IV.—NATIVE STATES.</b>	
Wild beasts in the Backergunge district ... ..	ib.	Nil.	
The official reports on the Tala riot ... ..	ib.	<b>V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.</b>	
<i>Badmashi</i> in the Backergunge district ... ..	767	Distress in Burdwan ... ..	777
The report on the Tala riots ... ..	ib.	Distress in the Burdwan district ... ..	ib.
The chaukidari tax in a village in the Bankura district ... ..	768	Reports of distress ... ..	ib.
The report on the Tala riot ... ..	ib.	Distress in Assam ... ..	ib.
<b>(b)—Working of the Courts—</b>		Distress in the Bankura district ... ..	778
Honorary Magistrates in the Murshidabad district ... ..	769	Relief operations in Gangajalghati in the Bankura district ... ..	ib.
The certificate section of the Murshidabad Collectorate ... ..	ib.	Distress in the Bogra district ... ..	ib.
The two Honorary Magistrates in the Murshidabad district ... ..	770		
Mr. Tilak's defence ... ..	ib.		
A lady not allowed to be represented by a pleader ... ..	ib.		
Mr. Mackenzie, Deputy Magistrate of Barh, Patna district ... ..	ib.		
Mr. Hamilton again ... ..	ib.		
The <i>Eagle</i> steamer case ... ..	771		
An illegal decision by an Honorary Magistrate ... ..	ib.		
A defence of the Subdivisional Officer of Jahanabad ... ..	ib.		
The Jury Notification ... ..	ib.		
<b>(c)—Jails—</b>			
Nil.			
<b>(d)—Education—</b>			
The whipping of a whole class in the Isan Institution, Faridpur ... ..	ib.		
Two teachers of the Deoghur school harassed by a Postal Superintendent ... ..	772		
The case of a school-master in Deoghur ... ..	ib.		
An educational circular issued by Dr. Martin ... ..	ib.		



## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Sedition in the vernacular newspapers—a cartoon ...	778
Rumoured appointment of Sir Antony MacDonnell to the Governorship of Bombay ...	781
Hindu loyalty and sedition in the native press ...	ib.
The English press and the Musalmans ...	782
Hindu loyalty ...	ib.
Mr. Tilak ...	ib.
The duty of political associations in the present crisis ...	ib.
The revival of the Press Association ...	783
The Lieutenant-Governor's illness ...	ib.
The Pioneer's ignorance of India ...	ib.
Quarrel in a zamindar family in the Dacca district ...	ib.
Indian political agitation in England ...	ib.
Anti-native writings in the Pioneer ...	ib.

## URIA PAPERS.

Jubilee honours in Orissa ...	784
Cholera in Mohurbhanj ...	ib.
Cholera in the Balasore and Cuttack towns ...	ib.
Roads in Balasore town ...	785
Female students in the Ravenshaw College ...	ib.
Mr. Bhowuggree on the Indian press ...	ib.
Corruption in the last primary examination of pathsalas in Orissa ...	ib.
Bhata to poor school-masters ...	ib.

## ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta	20,000	14th and 21st August, 1897.	
2	"Basumati" ...	Ditto	.....	19th and 26th ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	800	24th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	About 4,000	20th ditto.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	1,250	21st ditto.	
6	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	18th ditto.	
7	"Samay" ...	Ditto	3,000		
8	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	21st ditto.	
9	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800	23rd ditto.	
10	"Sulabh Samachar" ...	Ditto	.....	21st ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto	300		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika" ...	Ditto	1,000	22nd to 25th August, 1897.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	1,132	23rd to 27th August, 1897.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	200	19th to 21st and 23rd August, 1897.	
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	Read by 3,000	23rd, 25th and 26th August, 1897.	
<b>HINDI.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Marwari Gazette" ...	Ditto	.....	22nd August, 1897.	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	2,000	19th ditto.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	10,000	19th and 26th July and 2nd and 9th August, 1897.	
<b>PERSIAN.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto	500	23rd August 1897.	
<b>URDU.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto	310	19th ditto.	
2	"General and Gauharisfi" ...	Ditto	330	24th ditto.	



No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>BURDWAN DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna ...	.....	22nd August, 1897.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	500	28rd ditto.	
2	"Bankura Hitaishi" ...	Ditto ...	.....	23rd ditto.	
3	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	250	17th ditto.	
4	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	620	22nd ditto.	
5	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,280		
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>PRESIDENCY DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	696	18th ditto.	
2	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	608	20th ditto.	
	<b>URIYA.</b>	<b>ORISSA DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	7th and 14th July, 1897.	This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309	7th and 14th ditto.	
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	480	10th and 17th ditto.	
	<b>HINDI.</b>	<b>PATNA DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	About 600		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000	21st ditto.	
	<b>URDU.</b>				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	16th ditto.	
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>BHAGALPUR DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Gaur Varta" ...	Malda ...	.....		
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>RAJSHAHI DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	248	18th ditto.	This paper is not regularly published for want of type.
2	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180	.....	
	<b>HINDI.</b>				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	700		
	<b>BENGALI.</b>	<b>DACCA DIVISION.</b>			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur ...	.....		
2	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	315		



No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal ...	.....	20th August, 1897.	
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900		
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	22nd ditto.	
4	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur ...	.....	20th ditto.	
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca ...	About 500	21st ditto.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	23rd ditto.	
	BENGALI.	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Comilla ...	.....		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120		
	BENGALI.	ASSAM.			
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet ...	.....		
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar, Cachar ...	.....		



## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 17th August has the following:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
August 17th, 1897.

The frontier risings. In this year of distress the Government has been hard put to it, finding money for the purpose of relieving the distressed people, and has even had to go a-begging from door to door in foreign countries. The expeditions against the frontier tribes, however, have compelled the Government to spend money like water. These frontier expeditions are costly, but fruitless. An annexation of the petty frontier territories will not pay. The inhabitants are poor, and the soil is sterile. It is impossible to expect these poor and turbulent tribes to pay an adequate indemnity. The Government is in a fix. It is, so to speak, in the position of a snake which has caught a mole which it can neither swallow nor disgorge. The Government can neither give up territories which it has once annexed, nor can it expect to succeed in pacifying the turbulent tribesmen, who are fanatical enough to blindly and unhesitatingly carry out the behests of their Mollas. It is useless to reason with them. They have more than once been severely chastised by the British army, but they are still far from being brought to their senses.

This being the case, it is highly impolitic to go and disturb these turbulent tribes in their mountain fastnesses. It is the fear of a Russian invasion which has no doubt induced the Government to bring the mountain passes in the North-West under its dominion. It is this Russophobia that has induced the Government to present the Amir every year with lakhs of money and with arms and ammunition. But the Government is not satisfied with winning over the Amir to its side. It is, however, well to know that with the Amir on its side, the Government need not fear a Russian invasion and the frontier tribes may be left unmolested.

2. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 19th August has heard that Lord Roberts is coming to India with 60,000 troops, probably with the view of making war on a grand scale on the frontier.

BHARAT MITRA,  
August 19th, 1897.

The chief factor in the recent troubles is not the Amir alone. It seems probable that Russia, that inveterate enemy of the English Government in India, has something to do with the troubles. Government has now fully understood that if Russia with her countless troops moves towards the frontiers, the Amir instead of offering opposition to her, will rather let Russia pass unmolested through his dominion. Had the Government seen this a few years ago, the danger which now threatens India might have been averted.

3. Referring to the frontier risings, the *Sanjivani* of the 21st August observes that it is suspected, that the Amir of Afghanistan has a hand in them, and is encouraging the frontier tribes in their revolt. This suspicion

SANJIVANI,  
August 21st, 1897.

The Amir and the frontier risings. has been strengthened by the fact that Pathans in the Amir's uniforms were found among the tribesmen fighting the English army. The Government of India has written a letter to the Amir, complaining against him. This letter has not yet been answered, but the Amir has reprimanded the Governor of Jellalabad and ordered him to prevent his subjects from taking part in the risings. The Amir's reprimand, however, does not seem to have borne any fruit. For soon after this reprimand the Afridis have risen. There is panic in Peshawar and other frontier towns.

4. Referring to the peace negotiations with Turkey, the *Bangavasi* of the 21st August observes that though a British subject, an orthodox Musalman, will never cease to hold the Sultan high above all others. The British

BANGAVASI,  
August 21st, 1897.

England in the Græco-Turkish question. Government, therefore, is likely to offend its Musalman subjects if it goes on playing "hide and seek" with the Turkish Government in the peace negotiations. Matters are assuming a critical aspect in the North-Western frontiers. The famine and the plague have tired out the patience of the people. It will be a serious thing if at this juncture the people become discontented with the Government.



MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
August 21st, 1897.

5. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 21st August has the following:—

The Amir's fidelity to the British Government.

By some of his recent acts, the Amir is about to lose the confidence of the British Government. In the course of the fighting at the Malakhand, it was noticed that the insurgents included in their ranks men in the uniform of the Amir's army. Many people suspect that these men could not have fought against the English without the Amir's countenance. According to a Simla correspondent, the Viceroy wrote a sharp letter to the Amir, in consequence of which His Highness warned the Governor of Jellalabad not to do anything which might indicate hostility to the British Government. But so long as the Governor of Khost does not cause the camels lost by the English in the Tochi valley to be restored, the suspicion against the Amir will not be removed, and His Highness cannot be taken at his word. The substance of the charges which are brought against him is that though he is not openly committing hostilities against the British Government, neither he nor the Governors under him prevent either the Mollas from preaching *jihad* in his dominions or his subjects from joining the frontier tribes against the English. These are indeed good grounds for the English to suspect the Amir's fidelity. After such conduct on the Amir's part, people may well ask if it is impossible for him, at the instigation of some shrewd enemy, to use the money which he has been receiving from the British Government against that very Government.

The frontier troubles have made the writer uneasy. It will be a serious thing for India if money and lives have to be sacrificed on the frontier in this year of famine and plague. May God enable the British Government to quell the disturbances and the Amir to maintain his friendship with that Government.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
August 22nd, 1897.

6. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 22nd August calls upon the Government

Afghanistan should be annexed.

to annex Afghanistan:—

Seeing that the Amir is espousing the cause of the frontier tribes, who have revolted against the British Government in India, the *Pioneer* and the *Englishman* call upon the Government to declare a war against Afghanistan. The Government, however, has committed a large blunder in its Afghan policy, which it is not easy to mend. The Amir is being enriched at the cost of the Indian people, and the payment of an annual subsidy and the supply of arms and ammunition have so far inflated the vanity of the Afghan people that they have come to look upon the British Government as a vassal of the ruler of Afghanistan. Just as the Europeans and Eurasians in this country unhesitatingly commit oppression in the tributary States on the strength of their consanguinity with the ruling race, so do the Afghans venture to push their depredations into British territories, looking as they do upon India as a tributary State owning the suzerainty of Afghanistan. The Afghans have forgotten the lessons which they were taught in the Afghan wars and the annual subsidy to their ruler has healed their wounds. They think that the fear of a Russian invasion of India has compelled the British Government to seek their help, and they believe that the more they will molest that Government, the more will it be anxious to increase the subsidy with a view to pacify them. The frontier tribes have caught the contagion of this bad example and have become audacious enough to fight the British army, believing that by so doing they will succeed like the Afghans in compelling the British Government to pay them an annual subsidy. This is the only reason that can exist for the risings of petty mountain tribes against a powerful Government and for their persistently periodical depredations into British territory which powerful States like Nepal and Bhutan, China and France never venture to invade.

It goes without saying that Indian Musalmans have a religious sympathy with the Afghans and the Musalman tribes on the North-Western frontier. Our Musalman brethren should, however, try to realise the fact that the Afghans and the frontier tribes have proved, at least financially, their worst enemies. The Afghan subsidy and the frontier expeditions are a heavy drain upon the Bengal revenue, the largest portion of which is paid by the Musalmans. If the Government had not to undertake these expeditions or to pay a subsidy to the Amir, the salt and many other taxes might be abolished to the advantage of the poor Musalman raiyats. Moreover, the population of the outskirts of India consists mostly of Musalmans, and it is they that have to bear the brunt of the depredations of the frontier tribes. It will be to the great advantage



of Indian Musalmans if Afghanistan and the frontier States are annexed by the British Government.

The British Government did not annex Afghanistan after the termination of the Afghan wars, on the ground that it would be a costly and troublesome affair to pacify the turbulent Afghans. The Government, however, has since grown in strength and resources, and it need no longer hesitate to annex that country. The Government which is easily ruling over sixty millions of Indian Musalmans and over millions of Musalmans in Cyprus and Egypt is not likely to find any difficulty in bringing a few lakhs of Afghans under its sway. Let Afghanistan be annexed, let railways be constructed up to the frontier of Afghanistan, and the frontier risings will be put an end to once for all. British influence once firmly established in Afghanistan, agriculture and commerce will prosper in that country and will be of immense benefit to the Musalman community of India.

It is the height of folly to imagine that an annexation of Afghanistan will increase the chances of a Russian invasion. Russia has not yet become so powerful in Central Asia as to dare to try her strength with the powerful British Government. Russian railway has not yet been extended up to the Afghan frontiers. England will strike terror into the Russian heart by annexing Afghanistan and occupying Herat. England should, therefore, no longer procrastinate and allow Russia to extend her railway up to Herat. If the Amir is attacked now, Russia will not be able to come to his rescue. But allow Russia to firmly establish her influence in Central Asia and sit firmly at the gate of Afghanistan, and she will instigate the Amir to invade India with the Polar Bear at his back. Let England try her best to avert that calamity.

7. The Sultan, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 22nd

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
August 22nd, 1897.

The *Englishman* on the Amir.

August, has denied having entered into any treaty or conspiracy with the Amir. The *Englishman* taunts the Sultan for giving what it considers an explanation which was not called for, and observes that the Sultan has nothing to do with the Indian frontiers, and his attitude towards the British Government is a matter of very little importance. Abdur Rahman is suspected of foul play, and it has become necessary to reduce him to his former position. By this the *Englishman* no doubt means to depose Abdur Rahman and make Yakub or Ayub Khan Amir in his stead. Such writings, however, are objectionable.

8. In the opinion of the same paper the Governor-General has been well

DAINIK-O-SAMA CHAR  
CHANDRIKA,

Proscribing of Turkish papers  
by the Government of India.

advised in interdicting the circulation in this country of two Turkish papers which have been violently abusing the Government of India. The Governor-General has the power of summarily interdicting the circulation of objectionable publications. Lord Lansdowne interdicted the circulation in British India of the *Prajabandhu* which was published from Chandernagore. The Sultan himself interdicted the circulation in his dominions of certain English papers which attacked his Armenian policy. The abuse of the Indian Government by the Turkish press is no doubt a retaliation for the abuse of the Sultan's Government by the English and the Anglo-Indian press. The Governor-General should therefore prohibit the Anglo-Indian press from attacking the Sultan, and should interdict the circulation in India of all European papers which publish extracts from, and translations of, the writings of the proscribed Turkish papers.

9. The *Hablul Mateen* of the 23rd August does not believe that the Amir

HABLUL MATEEN,  
August 23rd, 1897.

The Amir and the frontier  
risings.

has anything to do with the tribal risings on the frontier. The Government's uneasiness on account of those risings arises not from the fear that the Amir may have a hand in them, because it can easily crush him if he is single-handed, but because it suspects that the Amir may be in league with Russia.

10 In the opinion of the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 25th August,

DAINIK-O-SAMACHA  
CHANDRIKA,  
August 25th, 1897.

The Amir in the frontier risings.

the Amir is on the side of the English Government, and entirely depends upon its favour. The suspicion that the Amir is playing a double game, and is trying to be on friendly terms, both with Russia and England, is without foundation. Those who suspect the Amir of double-dealing say that he receives fifty thousand rupees a year from Russia. But this sum is insignificantly small compared with the eighteen



lakhs of rupees which he receives every year from the British Government. The Amir is not such a fool as to run the risk of losing eighteen lakhs a year for the sake of fifty thousand rupees. The Amir gives a flat denial to the charges preferred against him, and ascribes the risings to the preachings of the Mollas. It will be bad policy to disbelieve him.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

### (a)—Police.

HITAVADI,  
August 20th, 1897.

11. The *Hitavadi* of the 20th August says that the Viceroy has done wrong by pronouncing from Simla that the police should have fired upon the mob as soon as they attacked the Talla water-works, when the able Commissioner of the Calcutta Police, who was present on the spot, thought such a course inadvisable. The public agree in thinking with Mr. Stevens and Mr. James, that the police did well in not firing upon the mob in the very beginning.

SANJAY,  
August 20th, 1897.

12. The *Sanjay* of the 20th August cannot agree with the Government of India in its censure of the Lieutenant-Governor for not allowing the police stationed at the Talla Pumping Station on the occasion of the late riot to use fire-arms. Mr. Stevens acted wisely in doing as he did. His keen sense of duty is, indeed, commendable.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,  
August 20th, 1897.

13. The *Barisal Hitaishi* of the 20th August considers it absolutely necessary that the Magistrate of Backergunge should ask Government to supply him with more fire-arms in order to put a stop to the destruction of the standing *aus* crop by wild boars, buffaloes, &c. A gentleman who lately visited Bhola, says that in Hasannagar and Mendiganj, within that munsifi, wild boars are destroying crops in broad day-light without owners of the fields being able, in the absence of fire-arms, to drive them away.

SANJIVANI,  
August 21st, 1897.

14. The *Sanjivani* of the 21st August has the following:—  
Two things are clear from the correspondence between the Supreme Government and the Government of Bengal on the subject of the Calcutta riots—the magnanimity of the Lieutenant-Governor and the rigorous policy of the Governor-General. The Lieutenant-Governor was told that the riots would not have assumed serious proportions if the Police Commissioner had ordered his men to use their fire-arms in their very first encounter with the mob. Fortunately, however, Mr. James is not in favour of unnecessarily spilling human blood; he looks upon even the Musalmans as men. He, therefore, thought it advisable to disperse the mob with *lathis*, rather than with fire-arms. The Lieutenant-Governor has praised Mr. James for the patience and judgment which enabled him to maintain his equanimity in the crisis. It would have been certainly wrong to use fire-arms when the mob could be easily dispersed with *lathis*. By his appreciation of Mr. James' services, the Lieutenant-Governor has given unmistakable proofs of a sympathetic and justice-loving heart. Mr. Stevens is not one of those who do not set greater value upon the lives of Indians than upon the lives of cats and dogs. He expresses his regret even for the few lives that were lost in the police encounter with the mob. His kind heart almost shudders to think of the blood that would have been shed if the police and the Military had been ordered to freely use their fire-arms.

The Governor-General in Council, however, has given expression to a dangerous opinion in regard to the use of fire-arms in dispersing a riotous mob. In the opinion of the Governor-General the *posse* of constables who were confined in the Talla Pumping Station ought to have been provided with fire-arms and given permission to freely use them. This is a dangerous expression of opinion. The streets before the pumping station would have been crimsoned with blood if twenty-five constables had indiscriminately used their fire-arms. It is a pity that the Governor-General has made up his mind to adopt a rigorous and repressive policy. The Lieutenant-Governor wants to put down riots as peacefully as possible, but the Governor-General is of a different mind. He would put down riots with indiscriminate firing. The police constables confined



in the Pumping Station called for help; but before the arrival of the Police Commissioner, Superintendent Merriman had dispersed the mob without shedding a drop of blood. But this does not satisfy the Governor-General, and he would have been glad if the mob had been indiscriminately fired at!

The European community advised the Lieutenant-Governor to quarter a punitive police in the disturbed parts of the town at the expense of the Musalman inhabitants. The Lieutenant-Governor consulted the Advocate-General and the Legal Remembrancer on the subject, and has given out that the law did not authorise him to resort to such a punitive measure. But even if there had been authority in the law for doing this, he would not have used the power in this particular case. For "on the one hand there would have been much danger of punishing the well-disposed together with the turbulent, and, on the other, it would probably have been impossible to reach the one class whose participation in the riots had no possible excuse, namely, the miscellaneous bad characters who had no interest in the original cause of excitement."

These observations have offended the *Englishman*, and that paper has vented its spleen on Mr. Stevens. If the *Englishman* and its patrons had been our rulers, they would have burnt the Musalman *bastis* with all their inhabitants. The *Englishman's* inflammatory writings are not seditious, but it is sedition for us to demand the punishment of a European who has violated the chastity of a native woman. We must thank our stars that Mr. Stevens is at the head of affairs. A less wise and judicious Lieutenant-Governor would most probably have yielded to the evil counsels of the European community.

15. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the prevalence of *Badmashi* in the Backergunge district. *badmashi* in the villages of Sayna, Raghunathpur, Dhubri and Sirsa, in the Backergunge district. The *badmashes* have struck terror into the hearts of the villagers, who have not even the courage to complain against them. A person, however, gave the police a list of the *badmashes* of Raghunathpur, and four of them have been arrested. The Subdivisional Officer of Perozepur should make a private inquiry to ascertain why the police let the head of the gang and many of his followers to escape. If the *badmashes* are not severely punished, it will be impossible for people to live in peace.

SANJIVANI,  
August 21st, 1897.

16. The *Bangavasi* of the 21st August thus comments upon the official report on the Talla riots:—  
The report on the Talla riots  
The Lieutenant-Governor clearly says that a concession to the rioters "who had acted in flagrant disobedience of the law and caused a serious disturbance of the public peace would have been entirely inadmissible." "It would have implied a surrender to mob violence and greatly encouraged a repetition of similar lawlessness in the future." There is no contradicting this argument, and the steps the Lieutenant Governor took to suppress the riots were worthy of a far-sighted statesman like him.

BANGAVASI,  
August 21st, 1897.

The men actually concerned in the riots were mostly low class Musalman weavers and bricklayers, and the bad characters within the disturbed area. It is hinted that even Hindu bad characters joined the rioters. We, however, did not find a single Hindu among the rioters, although we are prepared to admit that Hindu bad characters would most probably have swelled the ranks of the rioters had the riots not been suppressed within a short time. There was, however, a novel feature in these riots. No fire-arms were used by the rioters, no *looting* was committed, and no attack was made on private houses. Attacks were, however, made on the police and European passers-by, telephone wires were cut, the streets were barricaded and lamp-posts were burnt. All this would lead one to think that there was an organisation and an intelligent organisation in these riots, and that the plans were laid beforehand by a shrewd tactician. The riots lasted for full thirty-six hours. The Lieutenant-Governor regrets the loss of life which actually occurred, but he says that the loss of life would have been far larger if the police had not acted with commendable moderation in dispersing the rioters.

The question of quartering a punitive police in the disturbed area at the expense of the Musalman residents has been discussed by the Lieutenant-Governor. Act V of 1861 is not applicable to Calcutta and its suburbs, and the question of quartering a punitive police has therefore been given up.



Mr. Stevens is, moreover, not prepared in the present instance to adopt a punitive measure, which is most likely to "punish the well-disposed together with the turbulent," and which will fail to "reach the one class whose participation in the riots had no possible excuse, namely, the miscellaneous bad characters who had no interest in the original cause of excitement."

The Governor-General accepts most of the views of the Lieutenant-Governor and gives him unstinted praise for his coolness and firmness. In one respect, however, His Excellency differs from Mr. Stevens and observes that the riots would not have assumed serious proportions if firing had been resorted to by the police in their very first encounter with the mob. The loss of life would have no doubt been greater in that case, but the suppression of the riots would have been swift and easy. This is as much as to say that in the future, firing should be resorted to at once on the breaking out of a riot. This large order of the Viceroy and Governor-General will make the Indian people tremble with fear. This order is not likely to be carried out in Bengal so long as a kind-hearted ruler like Mr. Stevens remains at the head of affairs. The policy of high-handedness has no chance of finding favour with a ruler who is touched by unnecessary bloodshed, who sympathises with the people in their distress, and in whose policy justice is always tempered with mercy. Let us hope that the Governor-General was not in earnest when he made the above remarks on firing as an effective means of suppressing a riot. We almost think that these remarks have been made with the view of threatening turbulent elements into submission; for a just and conscientious ruler like Lord Elgin is not likely to adopt a fiendish policy in the government of the country.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
August 23rd, 1897.

17. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* of the 23rd August complains that the panchayets of Gangajalghati in the Bankura district have assessed some poor men to heavy chaukidari taxes, whilst they have wholly exempted from the tax some well-to-do men.

The chaukidari tax in a village in the Bankura district.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
August 24th, 1897.

18. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 24th August has the following:—

The report on the Talla riot.

The European community of Calcutta were astonished at the Musalman assaults on a few European passers-by during the Talla riots. They feared that British prestige was in danger when a Musalman mob could dare to do violence to Europeans, who were so long held in awe, and whose very name was a terror to the people—even to the most turbulent among them. It was, therefore, no wonder that the European community was thrown into a panic—a panic which spread even to England. We were pained to see Europeans in such a panic, but we were not surprised. The Musalmans lost their heads and acted like mad men. They did not and could not think of the consequences of their action. The Lieutenant-Governor observes that the assaults on the Europeans were committed by bad characters. We respectfully beg to differ from His Honour. We have not yet got any proofs to show that the assaults on the Europeans were not the doings of a fanatical mob. We are, moreover, of opinion that these assaults, unexpected as they were, were not at all likely to lower the prestige of the British nation. If an assault on a European jailor by native prisoners, or an attack on the European Superintendent of a lunatic asylum by its inmates, does not lower the British prestige in the eye of the Indian public, frantic assaults on Europeans by fanatical Musalmans are not likely to produce a different result. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, qualifies his statement with a "perhaps," and we need not, therefore, dwell long upon this aspect of the case.

Both the Commissioner of Police and the Lieutenant-Governor are of opinion that even during the attack on the Talla Pumping Station the police would not have been justified in firing at the mob. The Governor-General, however, takes a different view and thinks that "the Commissioner might have been better advised had he not left the guard of 25 men at the Talla Pumping Station without fire-arms." In the opinion of the Government of India the riots would have been easily put down if the police guard at the pumping station had freely fired at the mob. It appears that Lord Elgin endorses Lord Lansdowne's views on the subject of firing at a riotous mob. We, however, agree with the Lieutenant-Governor in thinking that as the police easily



dispersed the mob almost in all cases, indiscriminate firing would not have been justified. We think that the Governor-General's opinion regarding firing at a riotous mob will be taken for a command, and firing will be resorted to in future in the beginning of all disturbances, great or small. In Lord Elgin's opinion small disturbances may grow into big riots, and it may, therefore, be urged that small disturbances should be prevented from assuming a serious aspect by resorting to indiscriminate firing. We almost shudder to think of the consequences that will follow if the police carry the Governor-General's argument to its natural conclusion. The Police Commissioner's arrangements to put down the riots were all that could be desired. God-fearing as he was, he thought it wrong to resort to firing, simply for the purpose of preventing a small disturbance from assuming a serious aspect. The Governor-General recommends cruel and heartless measures and this gives us cause for anxiety.

As for the question of quartering a punitive police in Calcutta, the Lieutenant-Governor should give up the idea of amending Act V of 1861. The quartering of a punitive police is out of the question in a large town like Calcutta, which is inhabited by men of various creeds and nationalities. In Calcutta Hindus and Musalmans and Christians are in most cases next door neighbours to one another. There is no quarter of the town which is purely Hindu, or purely Musalman, or purely Christian. It cannot, moreover, be said that the Talla riots were confined to a definite area. It may be true that the leading part in the riots was taken by men who were implicated in the Syambazar riots. But this is only a guess, and it would have been unjust to punish men on suspicion. To quarter a punitive police on the whole town would have been much more unjustifiable, as it would have been punishing the innocent many along with the guilty few. There is a strong police force in Calcutta able to cope with a disturbance, however severe and extensive, and it will be worse than useless to quarter a punitive police in the town.

The Governor-General finds fault with the Police Commissioner for the unavoidable delay of three hours in sending reinforcements to the Tala Pumping Station. The Police Commissioner, however, cannot be blamed for it. None could dream that the Talla riot would assume a serious aspect, and Mr. James cannot be taken to task for not providing against a contingency which he did not expect. How has it turned in the frontier? Was Lord Elgin able to foresee that the risings there would assume a serious aspect, and was there no delay in sending troops to the rescue of the frontier garrisons attacked by the frontier tribes?

(b) — *Working of the Courts.*

19. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 18th August says that though at the repeated representation of this paper, to which the able Magistrate of the Murshidabad district con-

Honorary Magistrates in the Murshidabad district.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
August 18th, 1897.

descended to listen, the constitution of Honorary Benches in that district has greatly improved, there are still cases in which failure of justice takes place owing to the Honorary Magistrate's ignorance of law. In a recent case, before an ordinary Honorary Bench, a witness for the prosecution contradicted himself in cross-examination, whereupon the complainant's mukhtar wanted the Court's permission to re-examine him. But the Magistrates not knowing whether they could, according to the law, grant such permission left the Court in search of a pleader for advice. That point was settled, but fresh points of law arising in the course of the hearing, the Magistrates spent the whole day in running about after pleaders. It is not certainly advisable to appoint to the Honorary Benches men who are so ignorant of the law. In the Murshidabad district there are many pleaders among the Honorary Magistrates, and the District Magistrate should take care to so form every Honorary Bench as to include one pleader in it.

20. The same paper complains that in the Murshidabad district cases have become very frequent, in which certificates for the recovery of cesses are filed against landowners who have already paid the cesses due from them. This is causing much unnecessary trouble and expense to landowners. The amla of the certificate section of the Collectorate, however, are always

The certificate section of the Murshidabad Collectorate.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,



ready with their explanations for such mistakes. If the complainants be mufassal men, they often bully them away, and if any complainant goes so far as to place his case before the Deputy Collector, they compromise the matter with him. People consent to such compromises even at some loss to themselves, because they fear future trouble at the hands of the amla, whose supplications and importunities, too, cannot be avoided. It is hoped that the Deputy Collector in charge of this section of the Collectorate will look to these irregularities.

PRATIKAR,  
August 20th, 1897.

21. The *Pratihar* of the 20th August contradicts the statement of the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* that two Honorary Magistrates in the Murshidabad district left their Bench to consult a pleader on some points of law which arose in the course of the hearing of a case before them (*see* paragraph before last). The Magistrate has only to enquire into the matter to be satisfied about the falsity of this statement. The accusation has proceeded from pure malice. Admitting that the Magistrates did as they are said to have done, that only shows that they are anxious to discharge their duty conscientiously.

HITAVADI,  
August 20th, 1897.

22. The *Hitavadi* of the 20th August says:—Let Mr. Tilak be punished by all means if he is guilty of sedition, but everybody should see that as he is not a rich man, he is able to defend himself properly against the powerful Government. Those who fear to contribute towards Mr. Tilak's defence, from a fear of displeasing Government, are mistaken, for Government has no personal grudge against Mr. Tilak, and is far from being yet convinced of his guilt, or he would not have been admitted to bail. Subscriptions for Mr. Tilak's defence will be received by Babu Surendranath Banerji at the Indian Association office, and by Babus Hirendranath Datta and Bhupendranath Basu, Attorneys at-law, at their respective offices.

HITAVADI.

23. The same paper is sorry that Mr. Abdul Kadir, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, rejected the prayer of Srimati Sarada Dasi, a lady belonging to the famous zamindar family of Bawli, the Mandals, to be represented by a pleader, on the ground that she is a Kaivarta woman and does not belong to a high caste. The descendants of Rani Rasmani and the Mandals of Taliganj are Kaivarta families, and yet their position in society is as high as that of many Rajas and Maharajas. In such cases the social position of a lady's family rather than her caste should be considered.

HITAVADI.

24. The same paper says that in a recent decision of his, Mr. Mackenzie, Deputy Magistrate of Barh, enunciated the novel and astounding theory that justice in this country is not always compatible with a strict adherence to the law, and that if a judicial officer only took care to do justice, legal niceties would take care of themselves. This decision having come before the District Judge of Patna on appeal, he sent it to the High Court with the remark that many decisions of that officer in cases of disputed possession of land had already been set aside by the High Court, that it was a pity that such cases should be tried by the Deputy Magistrate, and that his instructions to the District Magistrate to watch the Deputy Magistrate's proceedings had borne no fruit. The High Court has, of course, set aside this decision too. Is it the intention of Government that Mr. Mackenzie should go on passing such decisions, and that people should as often appeal against them? It may be sport to Englishmen to watch the proceedings of Magistrates of this type, but it is death to the people. Will not the Lieutenant-Governor yet take notice of Mr. Mackenzie's proceedings?

HITAVADI.

25. The same paper mentions the following fresh vagary on the part of Mr. Hamilton, Deputy Commissioner of Gauhati. He sentenced one Gopal, by the Magistrate's own admission, a lad of fifteen, to 20 stripes, but the Civil Surgeon having certified him to be capable of bearing only 15 stripes, he was punished accordingly. The whipping was, however, inflicted in the ordinary way and not by way of school discipline, as the law requires. It is hoped that the Chief Commissioner will attend to this matter.



26. The same paper says that the *serang* and the doctor of the *Eagle* steamer have been too lightly punished, both having been simply fined. An attempted outrage upon a woman is a serious offence in this country and requires much severer punishment. The writer hopes that Lord Elgin, who attended to a similar case on a previous occasion, will attend to this case also and see that an exemplary punishment is inflicted on the offenders. The writer is sure that the authorities will, on an inspection of the records of the case, perceive the necessity of awarding a heavier punishment.

HITAVADI,  
August 20th, 1897.

27. The same paper says that one Rajkumar Haldar and several others were illegally punished by Babu Upendranath Basu, an Honorary Magistrate of Diamond Harbour, as will appear from the following order of the District Magistrate passed on appeal:—

HITAVADI.

"ORDER.

"In the present case the accused admitted their guilt, and the conviction under section 174, Indian Penal Code, is therefore correct. The sentence of rigorous imprisonment is, however, illegal, as section 174 only provides for simple imprisonment. The defendants have, however, served their term of five days' imprisonment as rigorous imprisonment, and this cannot now be remedied. Under the circumstances, however, they appear to have been sufficiently punished and fine of Rs. 50 is set aside. The remainder of the sentence is modified to one of five days' simple imprisonment.

(Sd). E. H. WALSH,  
Magistrate."

Judicial vagaries of this kind are far from being rare in this country, and it is a pity that they are not redressed. As Honorary Magistrates cannot be departmentally punished like stipendiary Magistrates for their vagaries, Government should be careful in nominating them.

28. The Headmaster of the Jahanabad School writes in the same paper to defend the Subdivisional Officer against the charge of having taken the boys of his school, without his permission, on the day of the Jubilee celebration, to join the Sankirtan procession (see Report on Native Papers for 21st August 1897, paragraph 10).

HITAVADI.

In doing this, says the Headmaster, the Subdivisional Officer did nothing wrong, as the day was a gazetted holiday and the school had been kept open only that the boys might assemble there for taking part in the Sankirtan procession.

29. The *Bangavasi* of the 21st August writes as follows with reference to the Lieutenant-Governor's reply to the British Indian Association's memorial on the Jury Notification:—

BANGAVASI,  
August 21st, 1897.

The pleader Babus will henceforth cease to be jurors and Honorary Magistrates. The only privilege they will now enjoy is to stand for Municipal Commissionerships. If any of them is successful in being elevated to Municipal eminence, he will have the power of ruling over municipal scavengers, and may have the remote possibility of being favoured with a Rai Bahadurship. The Lieutenant-Governor's reply to the memorial of the British Indian Association has not disappointed us; for we have never been in favour of *begar*. Schoolmasters have ample leisure and much intelligence. Let them henceforth serve as jurors and assessors and Honorary Magistrates. Teachers and Professors versed in Shelley and Byron, Mill and Spencer will be able to deal even-handed justice.

(d)—Education.

30. The students of the first and second classes of the Isan Institution in Faridpur, writing in the *Sanjay* of the 20th August, say that it is true that the Headmaster thrashed the whole of the fifth class for making noise in

SANJAY,  
August 20th, 1897.

The whipping of a whole class in the Isan Institution, Faridpur.



the absence of their pandit, but he did that only when his patience was tired out by repeatedly calling upon the boys to be quiet. And immediately after inflicting the punishment he saw his mistake in having beaten the innocent with the guilty, and he apologised to the boys. The conduct of the third master of the school, who, after the occurrence and within school hours delivered an address strongly censuring the Headmaster, is very much to be regretted. A distorted account of this incident has appeared in the *Faridpur Hitaishini* newspaper (Report on Native Papers for 21st August, paragraph 20). The editor believes the account given here as more trustworthy than the one which appeared in the other Faridpur paper.

HITAVADI,  
August 20th, 1897

Two teachers of the Deoghur school harassed by a Postal Superintendent.

31. The *Hitavadi* of the 20th August says:—Does anarchy prevail at Deoghur? A gentleman complained that a letter addressed to him had miscarried, and instead of investigating that complaint an investigation was made with a view to discover the correspondent of the *Hitavadi* and two teachers of the local school were threatened with a search of their houses. We cannot bring ourselves to believe all this, and we will soon go to Deoghur to enquire into the matter.

SANJIVANI,  
August 21st, 1897.

The case of a schoolmaster in Deoghur.

32. The *Sanjivani* of the 21st August learns from a Deoghur correspondent, that Babu Sakbaram Deuskar, a teacher in the Deoghur School, has been dismissed, and Abinash Babu, a clerk in the local post office, has been suspended on the suspicion that they wrote in the *Hitavadi* newspaper, complaining against Maulvi Nejabet Hosain, Manager of the Rohini estate. Mr. Heard, Subdivisional Officer of Deoghur, did not at first believe the charge brought against Sakbaram Babu. But he was persuaded to believe it, whereupon he appointed a special Commission to inquire into it. The decision of the Commission has not yet been given out, but Babu Sakbaram has been dismissed. A European clerk of the office of the Postal Inspector instituted a search in Abinash Babu's house, but failing to get any proof against him, he went to Sakbaram Babu's house and then to the house of the Headmaster, Babu Jagindra Nath Basu. No search, however, was made in the house of the last-named gentleman, who was only asked to hand over the manuscripts, if any, in the handwriting of Abinash Babu. It is not known why Abinash Babu has been suspended. Misrule seems to be rampant in Deoghur.

The writer calls the attention of Dr. Martin to the case of the Deoghur schoolmaster. If it is an offence to write against the local authorities, let the offender be punished. There is unimpeachable evidence to prove the innocence of Sakbaram Babu. If Dr. Martin or Mr. Stevens causes an inquiry to be made, the writer is prepared to help him in finding out the real offender.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
August 23rd, 1897.

An educational circular issued by Dr. Martin.

33. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 23rd August refers in an appreciative tone to an educational circular recently issued by Dr. Martin, and under which a schoolmaster will have the privilege of having, under certain conditions, one son admitted free and another half free into the school in which he serves. It is to be hoped that school clerks also will enjoy this favour, and that the circular will be made applicable to colleges as well as to schools.

(e) —Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

SOM PRAKASH,  
August 23rd, 1897.

Municipal assessment of residential houses in Calcutta.

34. The *Som Prakash* of the 23rd August considers it unfair that when the interest on Government securities and Calcutta Municipal debentures is not more than 3 or 3½ per cent., the Calcutta Municipality should assess residential houses in Calcutta for purposes of municipal taxation at 5 per cent. on their value.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

SAHACHAR,  
August 18th, 1897.

The proposed resettlement of the revenue of certain estates in the Tippera district.

35. The *Sahachar* of the 18th August considers the proposal of the Government of Bengal to resettle the revenue of certain estates in the Tippera district, which were formerly held khas by the Government, but which



were sold to their present owners in 1847, on the condition that their revenue would be resettled after 50 years, [to involve a violation not only of article 6 of Regulation I of 1793, but also of the Government of India's latest order, dated 1875, on the subject of the resettlement of the revenue of khas mahal estates which have been sold to private owners. The article referred to distinctly provides that the revenue of such estates shall be permanently settled. The Government of India's order of 1875, too, sets aside all previous orders on the subject and decides in favour of a permanent settlement of such estates. The owners of the estates concerned should petition the Government against enhancement of revenue, and Government will, without doubt, listen to their just and lawful prayer.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

36. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 20th August complains that it is very hard upon the poor villagers of the Howrah district to realise from them the canal cess in this year of distress.

HITAVADI,  
August 20th, 1897.

37. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* of the 23rd August complains of the bad condition of the road from Rol to Kotalpur in the Bankura district.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
August 23rd, 1897.

Another correspondent of the same paper complains that the road between Indas and Khanda Ghosh in the same district has become so muddy near the village Fatake that it is simply impassable there. This is the only road, however, by which carts can go to Burdwan town. The road between Indas and Kotalpur, too, has become obstructed at the ghat on the Sapura river, on account of a large quantity of sand having been thrown on it by the late flood.

(h)—*General.*

38. The *Sahachar* of the 18th August has the following:—

Lord Sandhurst in the Poona affair. We have great respect for Lord Sandhurst, for he is a kind and mild-tempered man and a real well-wisher of India. We feel greatly pained to write anything against him, but duty requires that we should say some unpleasant words regarding his recent action in Poona. Lord Sandhurst is a perfect gentleman, but not a competent statesman. There can be no doubt that his Lordship did his best to check famine and the plague. But we confess with sorrow that he committed some gross mistakes in connection with the plague operations and the events to which they led. His Lordship was quite upset when he heard of the murder of Lieutenant Ayerst and of the attempt on Mr. Rand's life. There is no harm in an ordinary man losing his equanimity under any circumstance, but it is bad for the ruler of a province to lose the balance of his mind, specially under the most trying of circumstances. Lord Sandhurst's first mistake was to station a punitive police in Poona after the murderous outrages, and before any investigation had been made to find out the real culprits; and it is clear that he was led to this step by the Anglo-Indian press and his Councillors, in whom he had placed too much trust. Nor was it a step which the law warranted. The Police Act empowers the executive to station a punitive police in a locality where riots or other disturbances of the public peace are apprehended. But there occurred no riots in Poona, nor was there the smallest likelihood of any disturbances taking place there. It is rumoured that he listened all the more readily to the counsel given by the Anglo-Indian editors and his own advisers, because his mind was already prejudiced against the Poona people. In hastily adopting the measure, his Lordship did not even consider the financial condition of the Poona Municipality. It was only when that municipality confessed its inability to pay the cost of a punitive police and pointed out the illegality of Lord Sandhurst's action, that the Governor saw his mistake. But it was too late then for him to retrace his steps.

SAHACHAR,  
August 18th, 1897.

The second mistake of Lord Sandhurst in connection with the plague administration, has been to deny the truth of the statements contained in the Deccan Sabha's memorial and of the allegations recently made by Pandita



Rama Bai. In this matter also, His Excellency's credulity and implicit trust in his subordinates have misled him. He would not have called the Sabha's statements false, if he had seen the reply which was given to the memorial in question by Mr. Rand himself, who practically admitted their truth. His Lordship can yet vindicate his reputation by ordering enquiries into the Sabha's statements and the Pandita's allegations.

The public are not at all satisfied with the manner in which the police enquiry into the recent murders is being conducted, and the belief is gaining ground that though Lord Sandhurst may do very well as a ruler in times of peace, he is not fit to sit at the helm of affairs in tempestuous weather.

SAHACHAR,  
August 18th, 1897.

39. The same paper asks Government to see that in Mr. Tilak's case jurors are empanelled who know the Mahratta language, and that a correct translation of the article in the *Kesari*, which forms the subject-matter of the charge, is filed in the court. According to a correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the translation which has been filed is not a correct one.

In the opinion of the writer the Government would have done well not to institute the case at all. The best course for the Government, when an objectionable article like that in the *Kesari* appears in a newspaper, is to warn the editor. The British Government has become so firmly established in India that it has to fear nothing from inconsiderate articles written by newspaper editors. British rule has, indeed, become the very life of India, and the Indians firmly believe that upon the welfare of the British Government depends their own welfare. Since the power of the Government is so great that it can either punish an erring editor or pardon him at its pleasure, the better course for it to follow is to let off the offender with a warning, for pardon produces a more salutary effect upon an offender's conscience than punishment. In 1857, when the Sepoy Mutiny was raging, a highly objectionable article appeared in the *Friend of India* newspaper. But the Government of Lord Canning, even in the trying situation in which it was placed, did not prosecute that paper, but only warned it. The situation in Poona is certainly far less serious than that in which all India was placed at the time of the Sepoy Mutiny. But Lord Elgin's Government has failed to maintain that coolness and equanimity which Lord Canning exhibited under infinitely more trying circumstances. If Lord Elgin had allowed the panic and agitation caused by the Poona murder to die away before taking any proceedings against the press, the prosecution of Mr. Tilak would have been unnecessary. It is not proper for the Government of India to allow its equanimity to be so easily disturbed. A Government which is charged with the protection of 250 millions of lives should have no limit to its coolness and patience.

HITAVADI  
August 20th 1897.

40. The *Hitavadi* of the 20th August writes as follows:—  
The policy of gagging the native press. The Anglo-Indians are up and doing to prove that natives are rebels at heart and to deprive the native press of its liberty; and this effort of theirs has not been without its effect on the spirit of the administration. The Natu brothers have been deported without a trial, and Messrs. Bal and Kelkar have been refused bail. Lord George Hamilton's defence in Parliament of the arrest of the Natu brothers at first led people to think that Government had found some clue to the discovery of the Poona murderers; but it now seems that no such clue was found and that the Natus were needlessly arrested.

It is perfectly possible for the Government in this country to make anybody withdraw any complaint against it or its officers; for if a warrant for arrest and confinement without trial is held in one hand and a form for the withdrawal of a complaint is held in the other, there are few who will not choose the latter course. But a free press, it should be remembered, is beneficial not only to natives, but to Government as well. A Government is liable to error, and is often unable to perceive such error itself. Errors on the part of a Government are, in the nature of things, seen more clearly by the people who have to suffer from them. Newspaper criticism thus enables a Government to rectify a mistake where one has been really committed and to set public opinion right about its measures where it has erred. A free press is all the more necessary in Bengal, because the people there have no easy access to the



higher officials, and the lower officials through whom the authorities are to be approached, cannot always be relied upon to truly report complaints, specially when complaints are made against the officials themselves.

No statesman in England, however, willing to gag the press, can have the courage to do that, for such a measure would be most revolting to the political instincts of the English people. We are therefore sure that however loudly autocrats and Anglo-Indians may clamour, a retrograde and coercive policy will not acquire permanence under British rule.

41. The same paper complains that no bid having been made for a license to keep a grog-shop in the Buxibazar quarter of Allahabad town, the Excise Officers are selling liquor there on Government's account till a bidder should appear. Would the empire have been ruined if the shop had remained closed for a few days? Will not the prestige of Government suffer from such an act?

HITAVADI,  
August 20th, 1897.

42. The same paper says that Lord Sandhurst has in a manner pronounced Pandita Rama Bai a liar. Rama Bai has however said to a newspaper correspondent who interviewed her, that whatever Lord Sandhurst may say, every syllable of what she has stated is true. Thus on one side there is the ocular testimony of a learned woman and on the other the testimony of the Governor of Bombay, based on hearsay, and the writer does not know which of these will be accepted by the public. If Lord Sandhurst is convinced that Rama Bai has made a false statement, why does he not prosecute her? Why does he again refuse to lay before the Council the complaints that were made to the Plague Committee? His Lordship's proceedings have really grieved the public.

HITAVADI.

43. A correspondent of the *Times*, observes the *Sanjivani* of the 21st August, lately attacked Mr. Gokhale and his fellow professors of the Fergusson College. The Director of Public Instruction, Bombay, held out the threat that the Government aid to the College would be discontinued if its Professors took part in political agitation. This threat has at last been carried out, and the Government has discontinued its aid to the College. The murderers of Rand and Ayerst have not been detected, but the Government is punishing the Poona people in various ways on mere suspicion. The detective who was supposed to have been thrashed by murderous conspirators and left for dead in a ditch, has revived and has assured the authorities that he fell into the ditch in fear. This proves how groundless are the Government's suspicions, and yet acting upon mere suspicion, it is treating the poor Poona people with a high hand. It is a pity that a liberal-minded ruler like Lord Sandhurst should act in this highhanded way.

SANJIVANI,  
August 21st, 1897.

44. The Governor of Bombay, observes the same paper, presents a striking contrast to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. His Excellency's report to the Secretary of State has not shaken Pandita Ramabai's accusations against the management of the plague hospital. The Governor says that he does not know what happened to the girl in question after her discharge from the hospital. This is no refutation of the charge that the girl had been "kept" by a hospital chaukidar. An inquiry ought to have been made to ascertain whether the girl had been defiled after her discharge. The girl had been removed from the Pandita's *sadan*. Why was she not sent there after her discharge? Why was not the Pandita, who paid frequent visits to the girl in the hospital, informed of her ward's discharge? The Governor of Bombay has shuffled these questions in his report, in which there is good deal cunning, but no frank and straightforward statement of facts. Lord Sandhurst has, it is true, abused Ramabai to his heart's content, but he has not been able to shake the public confidence in her veracity. The maligned lady is not prepared to retract a syllable of what she has said. There is no doubt that the Pandita has come out victorious in this contest between herself and Lord Sandhurst.

SANJIVANI.

45. The *Bangavasi* of the 21st August is glad to understand that the Maharaja of Kuch Bihar has been given permission to serve as a staff officer in the expedition against the frontier tribes. It gives the writer great

The Maharaja of Kuch Bihar  
in the frontier expedition.

BANGAVASI,  
August 21st, 1897.



pleasure when Native Chiefs are employed in warlike pursuits, give proofs of courage and devote their lives to the service of the Government.

BANGAVASI,  
August 21st, 1897.

46. The same paper refers to Lord George Hamilton's reply to a question in Parliament concerning the Khana Junction case, and writes that the magisterial inquiry into the

The Khana case.  
case has in a manner proved the guilt of the accused. A confidential report on the inquiry has been submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor. It is rumoured that the accused will not be criminally prosecuted, but will be dismissed. The writer does not of course wish that any person should be deprived of his means of livelihood. In his opinion, a public trial would have unravelled many mysteries. The public should be satisfied with the punishment, though light, which is likely to be meted out to the delinquents. It is sinful to indulge in a spirit of revenge.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SAHACHAR,  
August 18th, 1897.

47. The *Sahachar* of the 18th August says that though the *Englishman's* proposal to curtail the right of criminal appeal by making the decisions of the District Judges final in criminal cases, looks plausible as implying a less expensive and less intricate system of administering criminal justice than what obtains at present, it will appear on a close and careful examination to be fraught with danger to the country. Without meaning any disrespect to the Indian Civilian Judges, it may be admitted that they are far worse lawyers than the High Court Judges. It is not seldom that errors of judgment committed by them are rectified in the High Court. If, therefore, the right of appeal to the High Court in criminal cases is abolished, a large number of accused persons who might have been released by the High Court would have to undergo the punishments wrongly inflicted upon them by Magistrates or District Judges. The *Englishman* says that in appeals to the High Court many guilty persons elude punishment through the subtleties and technicalities of the law. But how can the High Court be blamed for that? The Judges are there to administer the law as they find it. The *Englishman* may advocate justice without law, but the writer cannot be at one with the *Englishman* on that point. The concluding remarks in the *Englishman's* article of the 13th July last read, as if he, who wrote them, would pay no regard to law in the administration of criminal justice. But should an experienced English editor forget the common maxim of British law, that it is better to let hundreds of guilty persons escape punishment than punish a single innocent person?

A correspondent of the *Englishman* has openly made some allegations against the High Court, which has become the eye-sore to many big officials. As a matter of fact, the executive is striving to curtail the powers of that Court, and they have to a certain extent satisfied their grudge against it by reducing the salaries of the Judges. The High Court is held in the highest respect by the people, who are very much pained to see the attitude of the executive towards it.

SANJAY,  
August 20th, 1897.

48. The *Sanjay* of the 20th August says that under a circular of the Board of Revenue, issued some years ago, no estate or *taluk* bought *benami* at a revenue sale can be registered in the Collectorate under the Land Registration Act merely on the strength of a deed of release executed by the *benamdar* in favour of the real purchaser. The Board issued this circular in order to prevent Government's loss of stamp revenue, because, though for properties worth not more than Rs. 50, the stamp duty payable on a deed of release is the same as that on a deed of sale, for properties worth more than Rs. 50, the stamp duty on a deed of release is in every case less than that payable on a deed of sale. According to the Board, then, the parties must execute amongst themselves a false deed of sale, bearing the proper stamp duty, or the estate must remain unregistered. The question is a serious one, because such a fictitious deed of sale cannot be proved to be genuine in a law court without the parties thereto telling lies. Nor will a law court take into consideration the circumstance which necessitated the execution of the fictitious deed, because the Board's circular cannot under the Evidence Act be accepted as evidence. This anomaly



ought to be removed, and the best way out of the difficulty will be either to insert a clause in the Land Registration Act making all circulars of the Board of Revenue admissible in evidence in a law court, or to amend the Stamp Act so as to make the stamp duty payable on deeds of release for properties worth more than Rs. 50 the same as that payable on deeds of sale for such properties.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

49. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 17th August writes as follows:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
August 17th, 1897.

Distress in Burdwan.

On the 14th August last, we came across a prostrate figure on the Mahajantaly Road in Burdwan town. The man had breathed his last only a few minutes back. On inquiry we learnt that the passers-by had found the man in a helpless condition, that he complained of hunger and asked for a few pice. He, however, died before any service could be done to him. There is no doubt that the man had been starving for several days, and at last succumbed to starvation. Ichhamat Khan of Samudragarh has told a friend that he had seen a moving skeleton at the station. The poor man was lying by the roadside. Ichhamat readily offered his services, but in vain. The poor man vacantly stared at him and was left dying. Men and women hailing from the North-West are constantly met with in the streets, going about like moving skeletons begging for alms. It is a common sight to see hungry beggars picking the few grains of rice thrown out on the streets. What a heart-rending picture! Is it not cruel on our part to amuse and entertain ourselves when our countrymen are dying before us from starvation? Are we men or beasts? Let the people of Burdwan come forward to help their distressed countrymen. If each of us daily keep a handful of rice for the relief of the distressed people, we can save hundreds of lives.

50. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the prevalence of

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

Distress in the Burdwan district.

distress in the villages of Barabelun, Nasigram, Kherar, Chhatni and Muraripur in the Burdwan district. Even the middle classes are in distress.

Many are living on one meal a day. Rain is badly wanted, and the *mahajans* refuse to give loans. The Burdwan Famine Committee is giving relief to the distressed people of the Sahibganj thana, but the agents are not conscientiously discharging their duty. There are many people in the villages much more poor than those to whom relief is being given.

51. The *Hitavadi* of the 20th August publishes the following reports of distress:—

Reports of distress.

HITAVADI,  
August 20th, 1897.

*Kalijanjan thana, Jessore district.*—Severe distress among poor people at Dapna, Helai, Fayla, Maledora, Namatpur, Maharchanda, Harigovindapur, Chanchra, Faraspur, Anupampur, Singi, Raygram, Daulatpur, Salika and other villages within the thana. The villagers have no more articles to pawn, and the mahajans too have no more paddy to lend. Many cannot get even one meal a day. Some are getting only meals of jack fruits, dates or arums, or of boiled leaves and herbs every two or three days. People have become mere bone and skin by starvation, and if not promptly relieved, will die. An official inspection of the condition of the villages is solicited.

*Kulai, Katwa subdivision, Burdwan district.*—Great distress owing to successive failures of crops during the last two years. Prompt relief should be afforded by undertaking the repair of the *kutchra* road from Katwa to Paliti.

*Lakshmisarai.*—A good many railway coolies of the place died for want of adequate wages and proper dwelling and hospital accommodation. On receiving a report to that effect, the Magistrate sent a retired Deputy Magistrate with a sum of Rs. 500 to make necessary arrangements. Satisfactory arrangements have now been made by that gentleman.

52. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 21st August complains of the prevalence of distress in the Nowgong district in

SANJIVANI,  
August 21st, 1897.

Distress in Assam.

Assam. Some time ago the correspondent submitted an application to the Deputy Commissioner, calling his attention to the prevalence of distress in the district. The Deputy Commissioner called upon Inspector Sadat Hosain to make an inquiry and report. The Inspector is satisfied that



distress really prevails in many parts of the district. The correspondent has lately written the following letter to the Deputy Commissioner:—

Dated Doboka Hatibaundha, the 11th August 1897.

From—RAM NARAYAN CHUCKERBUTTY, Esq.,  
To—The Deputy Commissioner of Nowgong district.

I BEG most respectfully to inform you that there is a village about six miles distant from the Doboka outpost, named Habi Killing Gaon. Three Mikirs of the said village (1 Dongjon, 2 Sarlong, 3 Croo) came to my lodging for selling *Shitalpati*, and they have informed that a Mikir named Dikhoy will die with six members for want of food. His four children are unable to stand, as they are fasting for last three or four days, and the Mikir himself is also reduced to skeleton, and another Mikir in this village, named Cloongbay, is also fasting for last four or five days, and he is also unable to stand, and most probably will die.

The Mikirs are an uncivilised people. They cannot represent their grievances and the authorities should give them a patient hearing.

BANKURA DARPAN,  
August 23rd, 1897.

53. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* of the 23rd August asks the Deputy Magistrate of Vishunpur in the Bankura district to take pity on those weavers of Birsinha who have not yet received help from Government. The other day about fifty such weavers went to Sonamukhi for help. Fourteen of them received Rs. 8 each, but the rest went away disappointed.

The Deputy Magistrate is also requested to afford relief to some poor low-class men and some poor but respectable widows with children to maintain in the same village. They are severely suffering.

BANKURA DARPAN.

54. The Gangajalghati correspondent of the same paper says that though the distress has not yet abated, the numbers on both Government and charitable relief are being fast reduced from 6,000 to 2,121 and from 1,275 to 805 respectively. In the Government relief kitchen the quantity of rice boiled for distribution has been reduced. The attention of the Relief Superintendent is invited to the condition of the poor, and specially to those who are disabled from working by bodily infirmity.

BASUMATI,  
August 26th, 1897.

55. Babu Asutosh Bhaduri, a medical practitioner, writing in the *Basumati* of the 26th August, draws attention to the severe distress which is prevailing in the Bogra district, and complains of the conduct of the Magistrate in completely denying its existence, and refusing to help the sufferers who are coming to him for help. Recently on his way back from Bogra town to Hili Bazar, the correspondent saw two men lying on the road, who would certainly die in a day or two of no disease, but simply of starvation. For want of rain there has been yet no cultivation in the district.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BANGAVASI,  
August 14th, 1897.

56. The *Bangavasi* of the 14th August gives a cartoon representing a laboratory in which there are two Europeans, one of whom is standing and the other seated. The latter is shown as making a microscopic examination of the contents of certain vernacular newspapers with a view of discovering sedition in them. The letter press is as follows:—

#### STRANGE EXAMINATION.

The European who is standing is asking the European who is seated—  
How many have been examined?

The European who is seated—About half-a-dozen.

Q.—Are you getting a clear view?

A.—Well, it is a very weak microscope. If its magnifying power were increased twenty-five times, we might probably get a clear view.

Q.—What is the first paper you have examined?

A.—The *Tattwa Bodhini Patrika*.



Q.—What is the result of your examination?

A.—I am not certain as to my conclusion, but it seems to me that it is seething with sedition.

Q.—What is the second paper?

A.—An examination of two and-a-half tolas of the *Bangavasi* shows that it is all thickly covered, though it cannot be exactly made out whether with locusts or with sedition.

Q.—And what about No. 3?

A.—The *Bengali*. Very large wind bags are visible. These very probably have microbes within them, but I cannot open the bags and inspect the contents, as that would set the gas free, "and for aught I know, it may overpower me."

The European who is standing—Damn it; let it go on.

#### PANCHANANDA'S EXPLANATION.

When the shadow of the police fell on Gokhale's soul on board the *Caledonia*, that soul necessarily became transparent. Now, two souls reside in the human body, one of which is the *jīvātmā* and the other the *paramātmā*. The latter is the witness, and its task is done when it has given its evidence. The former's task is done when it has suffered. When, therefore, Gokhale's *jīvātmā* became transparent, his *paramātmā*, for fear of giving evidence, tried to make its escape by breaking open the cage of the body. But how could it escape when the police was guarding the place? So, the *paramātmā* was caught, and prepared itself to give evidence. It said on solemn affirmation that it was all false—what it had seen was false, what it had heard was false, whatever had been said by anybody anywhere was false. Only *that* was true and existent. In fact, in this world of illusion every creature was liable to error; all things were as false as the elephants, chariots, &c., seen in a dream.

Gokhale's explanation is, of course satisfactory. But whether satisfaction is something real or false, is a matter on which I cannot pronounce any correct opinion without consulting those that are versed in the Vedānta philosophy. For, satisfaction may, after all, be an illusion. Those, however, that say that *māyā* or illusion is eternal, are dualists, and those that hold *māyā* too to be false are non-dualists.

Panchananda is in a fix. He sees that sages differ in their opinions. In fact, "he is not a sage who has not an opinion of his own." He also sees that "the truth of *Dharma* lies hidden in the cave." But a cave is inaccessible. The famous caves are those of Ellora in the Bombay Presidency. But the very thought of Bombay makes the mind uneasy. Panchananda's plague is unwilling to go beyond Khana Junction, and yet an explanation must be given. Gokhale has given one, Panchananda too must give his, for "that is the path along which the great have walked." Hence the explanation given by Panchananda.

Incarnation of justice, I am wanting in knowledge; that I am is because I am in the fetters of *Māyā*, otherwise I am not. Make the fetters tighter, still I am. Relax them a little, still I am. In short, I was, I am and I shall be in the fetters of *Māyā*. There is no way in which I can cut these fetters asunder, nor is there any place where I can go after cutting them off. Nepal is placed on very high mountains, and I shall be unable to climb up to it. China is surrounded by its great walls, preventing entrance. I shall be unable to immerse myself in the salt sea. To do so would be courting death by suffocation. The only place left is the Malakhand. But, if I should go there, they would hack me to pieces, and passing a thread through the nine openings of my body, finish by making a garland of me.

But I beg your pardon. It has not been well to say that I am wanting in knowledge. For, of late, universal knowledge and learning have established seats for themselves within the recesses of my brain. If there be sin in saying that I am wanting in knowledge, what is the good of my courting that trouble? Incarnation of justice, I declare in your name and do truly assert that I possess knowledge. The little shortcoming which I laboured under even the day before yesterday has been to-day rectified. The lesson has been this time learnt completely.



The fact is there has been no plague. Oh no! certainly there was plague. But who knows? It is a hard nut to crack after all. Now, either there was plague or there was not. I am only saying what it is proper to say. I have always said one and the same. What I am however prepared to swear is that arrangements for the suppression of plague were perfect and complete in every respect, or it may be, they were not so. But then such is always the case with vast undertakings. The fact of the matter is, Panchananda has nothing to do with any matter that may lead to any difficulty.

I swear I have not heard nor do I know anything about people like Tilak. Only a rumour has reached my ears that in gathering pebbles on a seashore, Sir Isaac Newton imperceptibly licked away the paint on the forehead of a Mahratta Brahman. I have only heard this much, and nothing else. What I have heard is good, if true, equally good even if false. Will you be good enough to say, "Amen?"

Now, master, translate this, let us once gauge the depth of your learning.

Afloat is my budgerow, filled with basket-loads of sedition.

And this makes Panchu smile, though bathed in tears.

Good news.

(Good, even if false.)

There is no longer any need of anxiety. Panchanand himself has made arrangements for removing the anxiety of newspaper editors. The Viceroy has personally written to Panchanand through the *Englishman*, giving some idea of what topics shall not be discussed in newspapers. His Excellency has written in the form of aphorisms. Panchanand is only publishing them with a commentary of his own.

#### WEATHER NOT TO BE DISCUSSED.

1. *Commentary.*—The weather is sometimes hot, sometimes cold, sometimes stormy, etc. "The sun is very powerful"—such writing is improper, for heat may make people's heads hot. Hot-headed men may go mad, and mad men may rebel against the Government. It is equally improper to write that the weather is cold. It is all cold and quiet before a storm. To say that it is cold is to insinuate that a storm is imminent. A storm leads to trouble and trouble leads to a breach of the peace, a breach of the peace leads to a riot, and a riot is only another name for the Talla difficulty. And so on.

#### PRICES OF GRAINS NOT TO BE DISCUSSED.

2. *Commentary*—If grain is sold at a high price, it is an indication of famine. To say there are indications of famine, is to say that the Sovereign is exacting, and to say that the Sovereign is exacting is rebellion. Now, if there is real famine, one can easily realise the possibility of the Government being pelted with the bones of the famished people. To say that grain is cheap, is still more reprehensible. To say so only means that exportation has been stopped. Stoppage of exportation implies an unsatisfactory condition of trade, and the implication can only mean that their good luck has deserted the English. And to make such a statement as this is to give an opportunity for rebellion.

#### A PARTICULAR VILLAGE HAS BEEN INFESTED BY RABID JACKALS—SUCH WRITING IS IMPROPER.

3. *Commentary.*—The Bengali word *sheyál* (jackal) is a corruption of the word *srigál*. *Srigál* puts one in mind of the word *shivá* (jackal). The addition of the little particle *ji* to *shivá* makes it *shiváji*, and that puts one in mind of the Mahratta hero. No need of proceeding further, for Poona, plague, punitive police and all the rest now easily and spontaneously suggest themselves.

#### BIRTHS AND DEATHS NOT TO BE DISCUSSED.

4. *Commentary.*—A large number of births among the native population may lead to an increase in the number of rebels. Hence reference to births is tantamount to intimidating the Government. To say that fewer births are taking place is still more objectionable. A decrease of population means a decrease in the number of Manchester's customers. Those that are unwilling to



be born in order that they might thus find a plea for not purchasing piece-goods are clearly rebels. Reference to deaths is yet more objectionable. If men should die all of a sudden, where would those be found that could be imprisoned or hanged? For want of such, the Courts would be closed, and consequently all Deputies would be thrown out of employ. Thrown out of employ, the Deputies would either take to dacoity or would not. If they took to dacoity, there would be libel cases. If they did not, there would be an increase in the number of the unemployed, and that would mean unrest in the empire. Look at it from whatever point of view we may, any reference to births and deaths would be certain to lead to difficulty.

#### DO NOT STOP WRITING NEWSPAPERS.

5. *Commentary*.—Discontinuing a newspaper would imply anger against the Government. It would lead to the closing of the paper mills at Bally, Titaghur and Raniganj, and that would mean spitefully shutting up the business of Europeans, and that offence would be more heinous even than rebellion. So, you see that you must not write, yet you must. That is to say, only write—go on writing—Red Flowers; Small Leaves; The Cow is Grazing; Men are Eating Grass. But you must not indulge in too much writing of this sort. For Vidyasagar's son, Narayan, will sue you on the charge of having pirated the first part of his *Varnaparichaya*, and will make short work of you. But what fear, brother? The rulers have in their mercy given you the liberty of writing free from all restrictions. Do you therefore freely and to your heart's content procure white ink, and having procured it, write with it plain words on white paper all the livelong day. This will satisfy your itching, while it will remove their anxiety.

57. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 18th August says that the rumour that Sir Antony MacDonnell will be soon appointed Governor of Bombay, is too good to be believed. If the rumour turns out to be correct, and Sir Antony really assumes the reins of the Bombay Government, there can be little doubt that the Bombay Presidency, which is now in a state of unrest, will soon see peace and quiet reigning everywhere. Sir Antony's ability in fighting with the famine in the North-Western Provinces will never be forgotten. On the other hand, Lord Sandhurst's action in quartering a punitive police on Poona and in sending respectable people to *hajāt*, has struck everybody dumb. If His Lordship had been the ruler of Spain just now, he would certainly have quartered a punitive police on that country for the murder of Senor Canovas.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
August 18th, 1897.

58. The same paper has the following:—

Hindu loyalty and sedition in the native press.

The English are our absolute masters. They can protect us, or they can kill us if they like. The English are, in fact, our body, our life, our soul, our power. Without the English the Indians would be lifeless, inert corpses. As a maiden loses her ownself in her lover, and sleeping, dreaming or awake sees, hears and thinks of nothing but the god of her heart, so has the bewitching love of the English led the Indians to lose their own selves in the English. It would be no exaggeration to say that the Indians would find it difficult to live without the English. But, alas, so unfortunate are the Indians, that in spite of their intimate connection with the English, they are branded as disloyal. We have no hesitation in saying that if the Indians are disloyal, there is no such thing as loyalty on earth.

The English are our sovereign and we are their subjects. Have we ever shown disloyalty in anything which concerned our sovereign? The sovereign rules his dominion for the good of his subjects. And subjects, if able enough, can certainly criticise the actions of their sovereign. Is such criticism sedition? Reckless and high-handed officials are constantly subjecting us to the most hideous and abominable oppressions, but how often do we complain against them? Patterns of loyalty as we are, and considering that under British rule we have trained our patience to suffer everything, it is not at all probable that we should be at all sharp in our criticism of the actions of our rulers. It is the newspapers in England and the Anglo-Indian papers in India, that write

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI.



against the Government. If the native papers ever lay themselves open to blame, it is only when they quote from the English papers and make their comments upon what they quote. Our criticism is directed not against the Government, but against individual officials. We never say that the British Government is baneful to us; we never say, let that Government go to rack and ruin. It is only when want of foresight and thoughtlessness, lead individual officers to harass and oppress us, that we say a word or two against them. If we had had any ill-feeling against the Government as an institution and against the English as a nation, we would not have distinguished between good and bad officials and admired officials like Sir Antony MacDonnell and Justice Gordon.

DARUSSALTANAT  
AND URDU GUIDE,  
August 19th, 1897.

59. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 19th August says that the English papers are trying their best to prove that the Musalmans generally are disloyal to their alien sovereigns. When those papers saw that the Sultan's victory over Greece awakened the Musalmans from their deep sleep, they thought the best way to do them mischief was to set their rulers against them. It is with the view of gaining that object that those papers are trying to persuade the English Government to be hard upon its Musalman subjects, and are circulating the false report that the Musalmans of Algeria are hatching plots against the French Government.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,  
August 20th, 1897.

60. The *Barisal Hitaishi* of the 20th August has the following:—  
Hindu loyalty. Mother, you are every thing to us. You are our education and religious knowledge; you are our learning, knowledge, civilisation, good breeding, pride, spirit, power and strength; it is through your favour that we have attained to manliness and have become entirely new men. The education you impart has formed our minds and adorned us with knowledge, learning, civilisation and good manners; has inspired us with a new pride and vigour, and enabled us to begin a new life of work and activity. Mother, it is you who have conferred upon us the boon of manliness and have made us men. Why then, Mother, should we rebel against you? Even a mad man, Mother, can discriminate between what will do him good and what will not, and have we even less sense than a mad man? No, Mother, we know what will do us good; we therefore wish, Mother, that your royal throne may remain firm in India, in this country of Hindus, that is, for ever. We were under subjection, but by your favour we have regained our liberty; we were illiterate, but by your grace we have acquired knowledge and learning; we were blind, but you have given us eyes; we were weak, but you have made us strong, active and energetic. We lived as demons in the lowest depths of hell, drank poison and died premature deaths. But your gracious hand has lifted us close to heaven. We are now enjoying a divine life, and we are becoming immortal by drinking nectar. Mother, these words proceed from our heart, from the heart of Hindus who are a people drowned in the sea of loyalty. How can we, then, be disloyal? We are not disloyal, Mother. A Hindu can never be disloyal.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,

61. The same paper says that Mr. Tilak's patriotism and love for his countrymen have endeared him to the whole Mahratta people. Though a man of Western enlightenment, Mr. Tilak is a follower of the ancient Eastern manners and customs of his country, and this has secured him the sympathy of every Hindu. The writer does not know the Mahratta language, but he can scarcely believe that a man of Mr. Tilak's learning, amiability, simplicity and high character, could be guilty of sedition. As a leader of the National Congress party, Mr. Tilak must desire the stability of British rule in India, for India's political interests are closely connected with the permanence of that rule. It is to be hoped that Government will withdraw its charge against that gentleman.

HITAVADI,  
August 20th, 1897.

62. The *Hitaradi* of the 20th August says that as Reuter's Indian Agent and the Simla correspondent of the *Times* newspaper are setting the English public against the Indians by sending distorted accounts of occurrences like the Calcutta riots and the Poona murders, it is imperatively necessary for all political associations in the country to send to English newspapers true accounts of occurrences taking place within their respective provinces.

The duty of political associations  
in the present crisis.



63. The same paper says that the Press Association has been revived in Calcutta, and it has made to Government the very reasonable prayer that, before prosecuting any paper for seditious writing, Government should send a warning to that paper through it. The writer does not expect every member of the association to follow the advice of their brother members. It is, however, something that native editors are meeting and talking to one another.

The revival of the Press Association.

HITAVADI,  
August 20th, 1897.

64. The Lieutenant-Governor's illness gives the *Bangavasi* of the 21st August cause for anxiety. In this crisis when errors and follies are being committed by the authorities, it will not bode good to the country if a shrewd and far-sighted statesman like Mr. Stevens is confined to bed. May Narayana bless the Lieutenant-Governor and soon restore him to health.

The Lieutenant-Governor's illness.

BANGAVASI,  
August 21st, 1897.

65. The same paper observes that most amusing and ridiculous letters are being published of late in the *Pioneer*. That Europeans can never understand the natives and the current of native thought is notorious enough, but the writer did not expect from an Englishman the crass ignorance which is being betrayed in the correspondence columns of the *Pioneer*. A correspondent of that paper has lately suggested that Europeans in India should dismiss their Musalman servants and appoint Eurasians and Native Christians in their stead. This is a good proposal. But will Eurasian and Native Christians prove as laborious as the Musalmans? Will they prove as faithful and as willing to put up with kicks and cuffs? If the Europeans can afford to dispense with the services of their Musalman servants, it will be to the advantage of the Indian Musalmans. They will cease to be stigmatised as "a nation of *baburchis* and *khansamas*."

The *Pioneer's* ignorance of India.

BANGAVASI.

66. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 23rd August, requests Mr. Hare, Commissioner of the Dacca Division, to intervene and make up the quarrel between the members of the Haybatnagar Zamindar family. Some conspiring amla on both sides will have to be dismissed for this purpose.

Quarrel in a zamindar family in the Dacca District.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
August 23rd 1897.

67. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 23rd August does not approve of the *Sanjivani's* advice that the Indian public should avail themselves of the visit of Messrs. W. C. Bonnerji and A. M. Bose to England to hold meetings to elect them as their spokesmen in that country, and that Messrs. Bonnerji and Bose should be entrusted with the task of giving the English public a right view of the present situation in India. The Government is at present surrounded on all sides by difficulties. The frontier risings have not yet been put down. The situation in Poona is far from being improved. Famine has not yet completely disappeared from the country. Under these circumstances, it will not be advisable to hamper the Government by finding fault with its policy. The Indian public should now come forward to help the Government in tiding over its difficulties. This is not the proper time for the ventilation of Indian grievances in England. The idea of carrying on an agitation in England should be given up. It will be the height of folly to offend the Tory Ministry or the Government of India at the present juncture.

Indian political agitation in England.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
August 23rd, 1897.

68. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 25th August has the following:—

Anti-native writings in the *Pioneer*.

The *Pioneer* of the 22nd August contains a letter over the *nom-de-plume* of "Ludovicus." "Ludovicus" sounds like a Russian name, and none but an English-hating Russian could write such a venomous letter. The letter is a long one, and fills full two columns of the *Pioneer*, and when the editor devotes so much space to it, he must have sympathy with the sentiments of its writer. To tell the truth, the *Pioneer* has not acted wisely in publishing the letter, and we say this although we know that of late the Allahabad paper has been publishing, on set purpose, letters which are likely to injure the interests of the rulers and the ruled alike. Most of the letters published in the *Pioneer* are calculated to create ill-feeling between the Government and the people, and their publication clearly shows that if it is at all necessary to pass a press law, it should be passed to restrain Anglo-Indian papers of the stamp of the *Pioneer* from needlessly vilifying natives and exciting official antipathy towards them. Lord Canning passed

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
August 25th, 1897.



Act XV of 1857 to gag the Anglo-Indian press. The *Friend of India* published a bad article, headed the "Centenary of Plassey," in which the Indian people were grossly vilified and represented as a people wholly unworthy of confidence. The writer openly tried to inflame the minds of the Anglo-Indians and called upon the Government to make a distinction between natives and Europeans. The tone of that article almost led people to think that the Government had really made up its mind to suspect natives and show undue favour to Anglo-Indians.

The letter under notice is written on the lines of the notorious article in the *Friend of India*. It is, as it were, a supplement to the "Centenary of Plassey." It will not be advisable to give a translation of this objectionable letter; it will not be safe to give even its substance. We are loath to aggravate the harm done by the letter by giving it wider publicity. The *Pioneer's* correspondent finds fault with the character of Hindus and Musalmans. In his opinion the caste system has made Hindus antagonistic to Englishmen. The Musalman's prejudice against hog's flesh is in his opinion, a serious obstacle in the way of an amicable feeling growing between him and the European. Even English-educated natives are said to be disloyal at heart. Hindus and Musalmans, says the writer, can never sincerely love the English, and they are sure to unite against their rulers, whenever an opportunity will present itself.

The correspondent does not stop here. He calls the Hindus and Musalmans bribe-takers. He violently attacks the Mahrattas, and observes that all Mahratta Judges and Magistrates are notorious bribe-takers. He speaks of a pamphlet which was published by "Boses and Bannerjis" from Chandernagore, and circulated in the Punjab, no doubt with the intention of inciting the warlike tribes who enlist themselves in the British army in India. Perhaps, "Ludovicus" wants to establish some connection between the frontier risings and the Musalman riots in Calcutta. His reference to the Chandernagore pamphlet at this late hour is otherwise inexplicable. The correspondent concludes his letter by advising the Government to appoint unemployed Europeans more largely to posts in the public service. English dominion in India, observes the correspondent, is based on brute force, and the appointment of Europeans and Eurasians will strengthen the foundation of British rule in India.

The letter of "Ludovicus" is conceived in the anti-native spirit from beginning to end. Its tone is so objectionable that we forbear giving a full translation of it. A perusal of the letter will convince Lord Elgin and his Councillors of the truth of what we say. The "Centenary of Plassey" and "The Signs of the Times" are articles cast in the same mould. They are equally objectionable and equally calculated to inflame the public mind. The notorious article in the *Friend of India* is among the records of the Government of India, and a comparison of that article with the letter in the *Pioneer* will show whether the latter is not as objectionable as the former.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPKA,  
July 10th, 1897.

69. Referring to the bestowal of the title of Rai Bahadur on two native gentlemen of Orissa, on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee, the *Utkaldipika* of the 10th July observes that the claims of the Rani of Kanika, Babus Rajnarayan Das and Satyendra Nath De should not have been overlooked.

The writer is of opinion that Raja Baikunth Nath De, Bahadur and Raja Badyanath Pundit deserve still higher honours.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
July 14th, 1897.

70. The *Uriya and Navasambad* of the 14th July reports the prevalence of a virulent type of cholera in the Tributary State of Mohurbhanj in Orissa, from the effects of which two or three hundred men and women are said to have died. Most of the victims were pilgrims, who had proceeded to Baripada, the capital of Mohurbhanj, to witness the *Rath Jatra* festival in that place.

UTKALDIPKA,  
July 17th, 1897.

71. The same paper also notes cholera cases in the Balasore town. The *Utkaldipika* of the 17th July also notes cholera cases in the Cuttack town, and observes that the Municipality of that town does not seem to be as

Cholera in the Balasore and  
Cuttack towns.



alert and as careful in looking after the sanitation of the town as it was known to be on previous occasions.

72. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 14th July regrets to observe the deplorable condition of the roads in the Balasore town, and exhorts that Municipality to mind its duties.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
July 14th, 1897.

73. Referring to the admission of two female students in the B. A. class of the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, the *Utkaldipika* of the 17th July observes that the system of mixing up grown up boys with grown up girls, unless guarded by salutary restrictions, is fraught with danger, which may tell severely on the future prospects of the pupils concerned.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
July 17th, 1897.

74. The same paper strongly opposes the proposal of Sir M. Bhownuggree, the Conservative Indian member of the British Parliament, to gag the native press of India, and points out that the Hon'ble Member is sadly mistaken in his views about the aims and aspirations of the Indian press, which is a rising institution, and which, notwithstanding its defects, is more a blessing than a curse to the country.

UTKALDIPIKA.

75. The same paper is sorry to learn from its Jajpur correspondent that the last primary examination of pathshalas held in some of the centres of that subdivision, was conducted in such a way as to enable boys, who knew nothing, to pass the examination by the assistance of other boys who had passed that examination in previous years. The writer hopes that the guards, through whose corruption such a disgraceful and deplorable state of things could come to exist, will be brought to justice without delay.

UTKALDIPIKA.

76. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 14th July urges that the low paid teachers of certain vernacular schools should have some *Bhata* or allowance in these days of scarcity.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
July 14th, 1897.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 28th August 1897.*



